Post 8-9-72

Spy Suspect Was Sane, Doctors Say

Associated Press

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla., Aug. 8 (AP)—Three Air Force psychiatrists admitted today that alcohol had impaired M.Sgt. Walter Perkins' judgment but denied defense allegations that it had driven him to commit espionage.

Col. William J. Fisher of Lackland Air Force Base, Tex., said Perkins still had the ability "to distinguish right from wrong" at the time of his arrest last Oct. 18.

Two other Air Force psychiatrists—Maj. Daniel Schweid and Col. John Sparks—echoed Fisher's testimony.

Defense psychiatrists testified Monday that Perkins' alcoholism, along with the belief that he could engineer the freeing of three U.S. prisoners of war, had driven him to steal five classified documents for Soviet agents in Mexico City.